

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~ REPORT

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SUBJECT Russian Directives to the National-Zeitung

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1. The National-Zeitung, which has been giving the National Democratic Party (NDP) considerable publicity, was recently asked by the Russians to stop promoting the party. The party, the Russians said, would find recognition in due time; its promotion at the present time, however, constituted an interference with Soviet policy. The deterioration of the political situation, the SMA continued, made it necessary for all German factions to take a firm and uniform stand; with this point in view, the National-Zeitung should not only abstain from criticizing the SPD for having lately shown Marxist-Leninist leanings, but should avoid distracting public attention from the SPD by presenting NDP ideas in a favorable light.
2. The National-Zeitung was asked to devote all its energy to proving that the western powers are hostile to German aims and ideals. The National-Zeitung, the Russians continued, would presently receive detailed material showing that the western powers are eager to destroy German integrity, both in concert and independently, and that they are opposed to German unity.
3. The alleged letters from readers in the "Nationales Forum", written largely by staff members who express their own views or those suggested by the Russians, have been censored since 20 August by a Russian officer specially assigned for this purpose. The open letter to General Clay on the subject of Dr. Schacht, written by Erwin Piechotka, was given favorable attention and a prominent space in the paper upon the recommendation of a Russian officer.
4. The editorial staff of the National-Zeitung believes that behind the recent directive lies the Russians' desire to prevent the public from becoming conscious of the connection that exists between the National Komitee Freies Deutschland and the NDP. The Russians have been greatly disturbed by the loss of Count Heinrich von Finsiedel, and are becoming increasingly distrustful of the members of the National Komitee and the groups interested in the NDP. The Russians complained on several occasions that their efforts to support non-Communist groups have met with little or no success in Germany. Some members of the editorial staff were given to understand that indifference or lack of enthusiasm shown in reporting would be proof that they had reverted to their former Nazi views.

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